

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Daniel Zolnikov, on January 9, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472  
Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Daniel Zolnikov, Chair (R)  
Rep. Denise Hayman, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Derek Skees, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)  
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)  
Rep. Adam Hertz (R)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Nate McConnell (D)  
Rep. Shane A. Morigeau (D)  
Rep. James O'Hara (R)  
Rep. Andrea Olsen (D)  
Rep. Zac Perry (D)  
Rep. Alan Redfield (R)  
Rep. Adam Rosendale (R)  
Rep. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Sydney Kessel, Committee Secretary  
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 61 & HB 52, 12/28/2016

**HEARING ON HB 52**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:58 Rep. Daniel Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 52, Grandfather existing customer-generator net metering rates.

00:06:08 Vice Chair Hayman

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:06:21 John Alke, Northwestern Energy, (NWE)  
00:07:29 Laura Andersen, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)  
00:08:20 Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association, (MREA)  
00:09:42 Linda Healow, Self  
00:10:15 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest, (RNW)  
00:11:54 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce  
00:12:59 Ben Reed, Northern Plains Resource Council  
00:14:23 Jim Baerg, Self  
00:17:57 Abigail Belcher, Association Students of the University of Montana, (ASUM)  
00:18:54 Katy Westhoff, Montana Public Research Interest Group, (PIRG)  
00:19:49 Roxa Reller, Self

**EXHIBIT(feh06a01)**

00:22:44 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center, (MEIC)  
00:23:13 Paul Ferry, Self  
00:23:49 Norm Nullen, Self  
00:27:10 Vice Chair Hayman

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:27:43 Rep. Custer  
00:28:13 Rep. Zolnikov  
00:28:53 Rep. Rosendale  
00:29:21 Rep. Zolnikov  
00:29:28 Rep. Rosendale  
00:29:33 Rep. Zolnikov  
00:29:53 Chair Hayman  
00:29:58 Rep. Hertz  
00:30:43 Rep. Zolnikov  
00:31:25 Chair Hayman  
00:31:34 Rep. Zolnikov  
00:31:42 John Alke, NWE  
00:32:58 Chair Hayman

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:33:10 Rep. Zolnikov

**Introduction of NorthWest Economic Region:**

00:33:31 Chair Hayman  
00:34:35 Matt Morrison, Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNER)

**EXHIBIT(feh06a02)**

00:37:49 Dan Ashton, Parliament Secretary for the Member of Finance  
00:39:28 David Kettles, Alberta Economic Development and Trade  
00:42:42 Vice Chair Hayman

**HEARING ON HB 34**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:43:28 Rep. Daniel Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 34, Increase net metering cap for certain customer generators.

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a03\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:49:58 Laura Andersen DEQ  
00:51:19 Orian Thornton, Solar Energy  
00:56:10 Ben Reed, Northern Places Resource Council  
01:00:17 Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a05\)](#)

01:04:02 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest (RNW)

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a06\)](#)

01:16:05 Robert Filipovich, Self

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a07\)](#)

01:18:34 Jim Baerg, Self

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a08\)](#)

01:22:08 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)  
01:25:16 Abbigail Belcher, Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)  
01:27:30 Katie Westhoff, Montana Public Research Interest Group (PIRG)  
01:28:36 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a09\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:29:11 John Alke, North Western Energy (NWE)

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a10\)](#)

01:39:42 Mike Green, Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU)

**Informational Testimony:**

01:43:41 William Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:44:16 Chair Hayman  
01:44:53 Rep. Redfield  
01:45:33 Rep. Zolnikov  
01:45:58 Rep. Redfield  
01:46:22 Jeff Fox, RNW  
01:47:16 Rep. Redfield

01:47:36 Jeff Fox, RNW  
01:48:06 Rep. Redfield  
01:48:48 John Alke, NWE  
01:50:25 Rep. Redfield  
01:50:31 John Alke, NWE  
01:51:11 Chair Hayman  
01:51:23 Rep. Morigeau  
01:52:09 John Alke, NWE  
01:53:11 Rep. Morigeau  
01:53:28 John Alke, NWE  
01:54:12 Chair Hayman  
01:54:16 Rep. Bishop  
01:55:06 John Alke, NWE  
01:56:03 Rep. Bishop  
01:56:09 John Alke, NWE  
01:57:34 Rep. Bishop  
01:58:02 John Alke, NWE  
01:58:43 Chair Hayman  
01:58:49 Rep. Olsen  
01:59:17 William Rosquist, PSC  
01:59:26 Rep. Olsen  
02:00:13 William Rosquist  
02:01:40 Rep. Olsen  
02:01:55 William Rosquist  
02:02:47 Rep. Olsen  
02:02:55 William Rosquist  
02:03:01 Chair Hayman

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:03:45 Rep. Zolnikov  
  
02:08:25 Chair Hayman  
02:09:16 Rep. Zolnikov resumes the Chair  
  
02:09:30 Recess  
02:15:59 Reconvene

**HEARING ON HB 61**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:16:27 Rep. Frank Garner (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 61, Revise and update 9-1-1 laws.  
  
02:22:14 Rep. McConnell leaves meeting

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:22:20 Geoff Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA)  
02:29:22 Dave Maslowski, Montana State Council  
02:29:54 Sheriff Brain Gootkin, Gallatin County  
02:30:35 Kerry O'Connell, Gallatin County 911

02:33:11 Linda Stoll, Missoula County  
02:33:45 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
02:34:57 Curtis Stinson, Lewis and Clark 911  
02:37:14 Peggy Glass, Livingston Park Company 911

**Opponents' Testimony:**

02:38:01 Mark Baker, AT&T, Charter Communications

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a11\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a12\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a13\)](#)

02:48:10 Shane Scanlon, AT&T

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a14\)](#)

02:48:53 Jessie Luther, Verizon Wireless

[EXHIBIT\(feh06a15\)](#)

02:52:05 Ron Baldwin, Department of Administration (DOA)

02:54:07 Chair Zolnikov

**Informational Testimony:**

02:54:16 Quinn Ness, Department of Administration (DOA)

02:54:41 Jenny Stapp, State library

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:55:15 Chair Zolnikov  
02:56:41 Mark Baker, AT&T, Charter Communications  
02:58:42 Chair Zolnikov  
02:58:58 Shane Scanlon, AT&T  
02:59:28 Jessie Luther, Verizon Wireless  
03:00:51 Ron Baldwin, DOA  
03:01:48 Chair Zolnikov  
03:01:57 Rep. C. Knudsen  
03:02:49 Mark Baker, AT&T, Charter Communications  
03:03:32 Vice Chair Hayman  
03:04:16 Ron Baldwin, DOA  
03:05:17 Vice Chair Hayman  
03:05:55 Ron Baldwin, DOA  
03:06:16 Rep. Redfield  
03:06:40 Mark Baker, AT&T and Charter Communications  
03:07:00 Rep. Custer  
03:07:52 Jenny Stapp, State Library  
03:08:25 Vice Chair Skees  
03:09:05 Geoff Feiss, MTA  
03:09:47 Vice Chair Skees  
03:10:17 Geoff Feiss, MTA  
03:12:35 Vice Chair Skees  
03:13:02 Rep. Garner  
03:13:32 Rep. Custer  
03:14:27 Rep. Garner

03:15:04 Chair Zolnikov  
03:15:59 Mark Barker, AT&T, Charter Communications  
03:17:01 Chair Zolnikov

**Closing by Sponsor:**

03:17:09 Rep. Garner  
  
03:21:32 Chair Zolnikov

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 03:22:13

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Sydney Kessel, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([feh06aad.pdf](#))